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NOON 15 AUGUST 1983

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1983

*Ans*

**PHONE INQUIRIES** for more information about these statistics—contact Ms Colleen Fogarty on Canberra (062) 52 6576 or any of our State offices.

*other inquiries including copies of publications*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

**MAIL INQUIRIES** write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES

During April 1983 235,900 working days were lost in 113 disputes involving a total of 33,500 workers.

In the twelve months ended April 1983, 1.9 million working days were lost due to industrial disputes, (an average loss of 0.3 working days per employee) compared with 4.2 million days (about 0.8 working days per employee) in the twelve months ended April 1982.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

Previous December quarter issues of the publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0) have included tables of working days lost per thousand employees. Similar tables have now been included in this publication.

#### Coverage

2. The statistics relate only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred.

3. The figures of working days and wages lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 5) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole.

4. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

#### Definitions

5. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

6. *Workers involved* include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

7. Differences between monthly and annual totals of workers involved can occur due to temporary cessations

of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Workers re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

8. *Working days lost* refer to man-days lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of workers involved and the duration of the dispute.

9. *Estimated loss in wages* represents the amount of wages and salaries lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and the amount is generally reported by parties to the dispute.

10. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Working days lost in agriculture, etc. and in private households employing staff have been excluded.

11. The estimates of employees are obtained from the Labour Force survey.

#### Other ABS publications

12. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Labour Statistics, Australia, 1980* (6101.0) (\$4.80, \$5.80 including postage)

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0) — quarterly and annual

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) — monthly (\$1.00, \$1.70 including postage)

13. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

p preliminary  
— nil or rounded to zero  
r revised

14. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

**R.J. CAMERON**  
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages(a) (\$'000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	Number(a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved(c)	
1980	2,420	2,429	1,165.2	1,172.8	3,320.2	2.8	152,022
1981	2,887	2,915	1,229.1	1,251.8	4,192.2	3.3	221,779
1982 p	2,045	2,060	691.3	722.9	2,158.0	3.0	133,624
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
April 1982	2,691	2,756	1,180.3	1,237.4	4,216.8	3.4	230,230
April 1983 p	1,874	1,896	603.9	626.9	1,924.1	3.1	129,578
<i>1982—</i>							
May	182	204	66.4	71.6	117.8	1.6	6,740
June	180	201	49.2	58.4	81.6	1.4	4,909
July	204	233	72.8	105.2	198.8	1.9	12,941
August	192	219	133.0	163.8	412.6	2.5	24,675
September	163	194	65.9	84.1	167.2	2.0	11,608
October p	157	184	43.0	62.6	150.5	2.4	9,592
November p	162	195	31.1	64.1	102.1	1.6	6,517
December p	116	139	26.5	31.0	69.8	2.3	4,879
<i>1983—</i>							
January p	100	108	24.4	25.4	105.5	4.2	6,254
February p	159	186	36.3	49.7	102.4	2.1	7,219
March p	165	195	39.5	54.5	179.9	3.3	14,314
April p	94	113	15.9	33.5	235.9	7.0	19,930

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month. (c) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a) : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST  
('000)

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (b)	All industries
	Coal	Other						
1980	710.7	197.7	615.9	728.4	217.9	215.9	633.7	3,320.2
1981	318.3	307.4	1,221.6	654.1	441.9	465.5	783.3	4,192.2
1982 p	525.8	157.1	241.8	333.0	231.1	296.2	373.1	2,158.0
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>								
April 1982	678.6	289.1	1,046.5	652.9	437.4	424.5	687.9	4,216.8
April 1983 p	151.9	112.8	258.9	300.2	266.3	312.1	521.9	1,924.1
<i>1982—</i>								
May	8.1	10.2	26.7	33.4	18.6	7.1	13.8	117.8
June	9.1	2.8	12.4	19.4	16.3	7.6	13.9	81.6
July	31.7	10.5	16.4	13.1	29.8	31.4	66.0	198.8
August	14.9	13.4	35.2	63.8	42.1	166.7	76.7	412.6
September	19.5	11.8	25.3	46.5	15.8	3.7	44.6	167.2
October p	21.1	20.0	28.8	47.6	21.4	4.3	7.3	150.5
November p	3.3	5.5	40.1	35.9	11.5	2.6	3.2	102.1
December p	5.8	5.9	3.9	11.7	3.3	5.1	34.1	69.8
<i>1983—</i>								
January p	1.1	11.9	4.1	2.8	12.1	69.6	3.8	105.5
February p	18.4	8.9	21.8	10.4	28.7	7.7	6.4	102.4
March p	16.0	2.7	29.3	11.5	45.2	4.7	70.6	179.9
April p	2.8	9.2	14.9	4.3	21.4	1.7	181.6	235.9

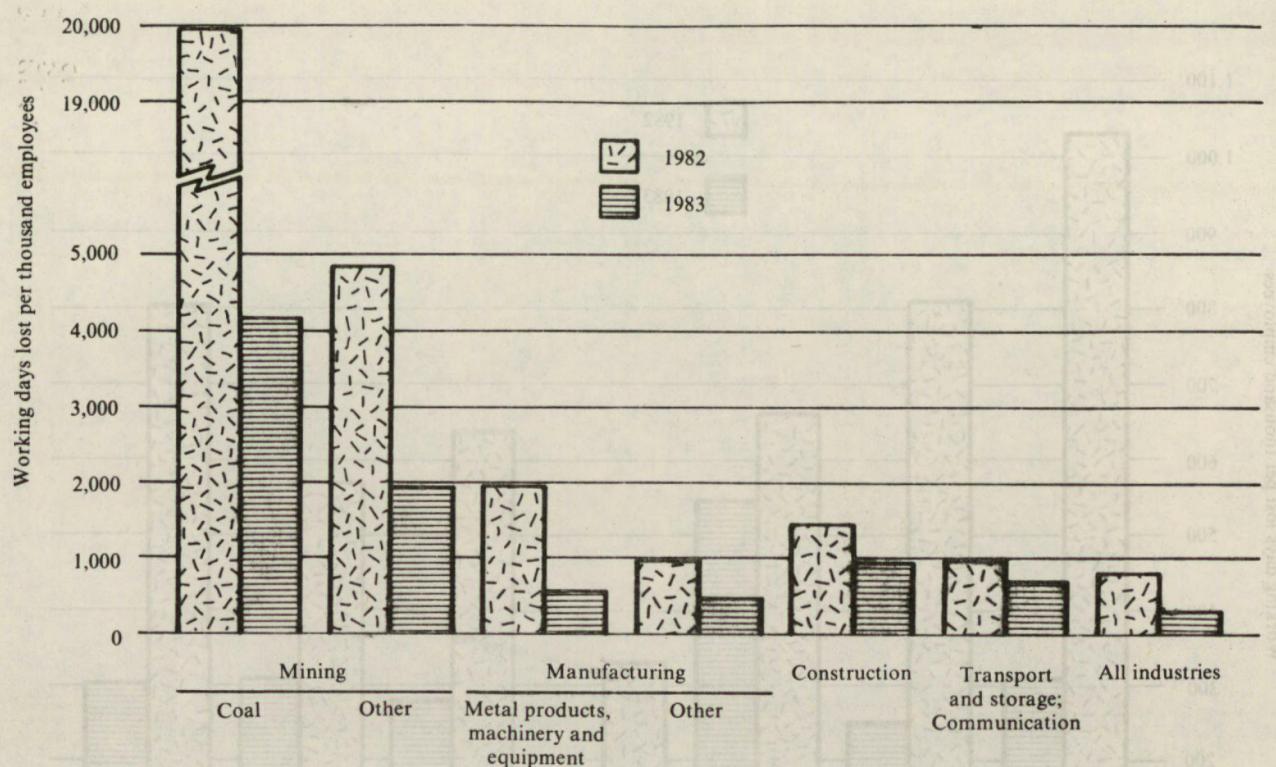
(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a) : STATES : WORKING DAYS LOST  
('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1980	1,208.6	1,115.4	618.7	59.4	191.0	91.5	3,320.2
1981	1,918.6	1,235.5	465.8	158.8	244.0	64.3	4,192.2
1982 p	961.6	368.0	509.8	66.6	162.4	61.5	2,158.0
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
April 1982	1,936.0	1,156.4	494.0	163.9	284.5	79.6	4,216.8
April 1983 p	826.9	379.8	416.9	104.3	133.1	47.9	1,924.1
<i>1982—</i>							
May	45.7	45.3	8.7	1.3	9.7	5.6	117.8
June	40.2	15.7	12.8	2.7	8.3	0.4	81.6
July	75.8	42.9	57.0	4.3	11.5	5.2	198.8
August	73.2	38.5	263.7	19.1	15.1	1.6	412.6
September	96.7	45.5	7.0	2.8	5.2	8.0	167.2
October p	44.4	66.2	7.6	1.3	20.7	9.8	150.5
November p	38.7	40.3	15.0	0.5	4.3	2.0	102.1
December p	31.2	11.4	3.4	8.1	4.3	8.7	69.8
<i>1983—</i>							
January p	81.5	6.8	8.6	0.2	7.5	0.2	105.5
February p	58.2	20.6	13.0	0.8	8.3	0.5	102.4
March p	83.9	24.4	15.4	28.1	25.9	1.9	179.9
April p	157.6	22.0	4.6	35.1	12.4	4.0	235.9

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

**CHART 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST  
PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 1982 AND 1983**



**TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a) : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES**

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment		Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries
	Coal	Other						
1980	23,533	3,915	1,181	1,094	681	537	202	650
1981	10,011	5,141	2,285	989	1,423	1,104	239	800
1982	14,483	2,691	487	512	782	670	85	396
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>								
April 1982	19,957	4,843	1,967	983	1,420	991	207	802
April 1983	4,151	1,952	543	462	928	708	55	305

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Excluding agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.

CHART 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 1982 AND 1983

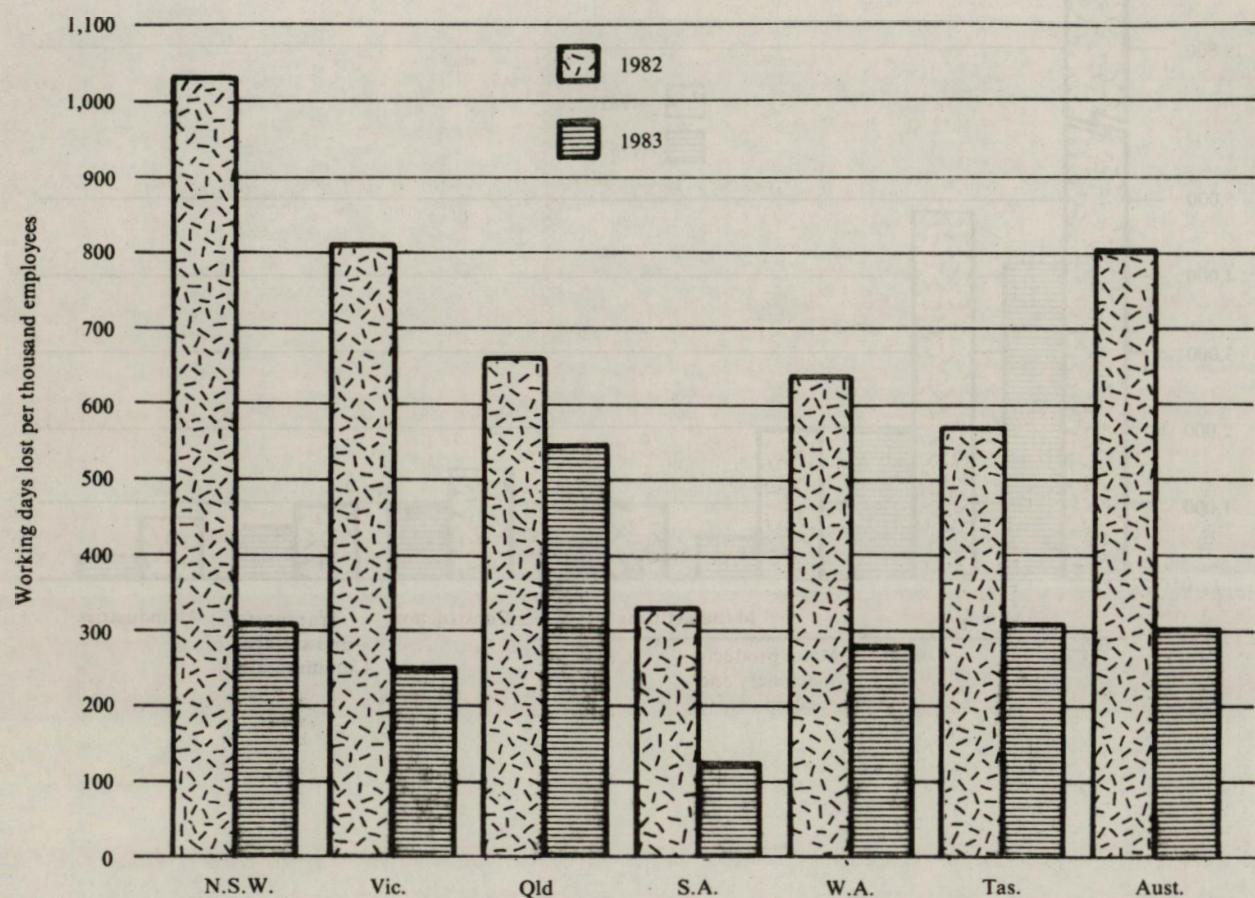


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a): WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(b)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(c)
1980	660	792	866	132	445	659	650
1981	1,028	865	624	320	552	456	800
1982	481	260	672	102	352	432	396
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
April 1982	1,034	808	659	330	636	567	802
April 1983	310	254	548	124	277	311	305

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff. (c) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.